



**1ST MEETING
SMALL BUSINESS SUBGROUP**

MEETING MINUTES

**JUNE 3RD, 2010
10:00 AM**

**THE STATE CAPITOL
HOUSE ROOM 1
Richmond, Virginia**

Subgroup Members Present:

John Biagas
Mel Chaskin
Julia Hammond
Andrea Kilmer

Subgroup Members Absent:

Fred Thompson

I. Call to Order

John Biagas, Chair, called to order the 1st meeting of the Small Business Subgroup at 10:10 AM on Thursday, June 3rd, 2010, in the Capitol Building in Richmond, VA.

II. Roll Call

Michael Hardy, Subgroup Lead Staff called role. A quorum was present.

III. Introductions

Brief introductions were made by members, staff, and guests.

IV. Overview of Materials and Research Provided

Members had reviewed materials and discussed the following topics: small businesses generally don't qualify for the Governor's Opportunity Fund doesn't allow for small businesses; what are other states doing to attract and support small business; small businesses need cash up front and have a hard time with long term tax incentives/credits; small businesses need better access to capital; there needs to be an understanding of the differences between large and small businesses and their separate needs; the programs available to small businesses need to be better marketed; workforce needs are different for a small business and apprenticeships are important; retail is the largest sector but is left out of assistance programs; there are different levels of small business and how do we define those levels and cater to their specific needs.

V. Importance of Small Business

Mike Hardy, Lead Subgroup Staff gave an overview of the importance of small business to our economy. 98% of jobs in Virginia are small businesses; 230,000 businesses in Virginia are small businesses; 75% of net new job growth in Virginia will be from small business. (Facts courtesy of the Department of Small Business.)

VI. Overview of Subgroup Vision Goals

Julia Hammond gave an overview of goals and some background for each.

VII. Vote to Accept Subgroup Vision Goals

Subgroup Vision Goals were passed.

VIII. Identification of Key Stakeholders

Mike Hardy, Subgroup Staff Lead, reminded the group to keep in mind all key stakeholders throughout this process and emphasized the necessity of outside input. Possible key stakeholders: Associated Builders and Contractors; Associated General Contractors; Retail Merchants; regional and local economic development groups; Chambers of Commerce; etc.

IX. Public Comment

The meeting was opened to public comment. The following comments were made: several subgroups are addressing tax issues so perhaps we should streamline each subgroup's strategies; the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority needs more resources; banks have to be more conservative during recessions but they would like to increase lending; etc .

X. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 7th at 2:00 PM in House Room 1 of the State Capitol.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.